

CHAPTER 2

ORGANIZATION OF VETERINARY SUPPORT**Section I. VETERINARY STAFF OFFICERS****2-1. Veterinary Staff Officer Assignments**

- a.* Veterinary Corps staff officers are assigned to—
- Major Army commands (MACOMs).
 - Medical commands (MEDCOMs).
 - Medical brigades (combat zone [CZ] and EAC).
 - Area medical laboratories (AMLs).
 - Special Forces groups (airborne).
 - Civil affairs commands, brigades, teams, and detachments in the public health, governmental, civic action, and civil assistance areas with direct support and general support missions.
- b.* Veterinary Corps staff officers may also be assigned to joint task forces, United Nation's peacekeeping operations, emergency management agencies for SASO, or other C2 organizations. When it is determined that a veterinary staff officer is necessary, this officer should be assigned to the task force medical group and be included in the initial planning and deployment.

2-2. Duties of the Veterinary Staff Officer

The veterinary staff officer—

- Coordinates veterinary activities with the command surgeon.
- Exercises staff supervision over the veterinary support provided the command or task force.
- Determines requirements for and recommends employment of veterinary units and personnel. The requirements are METT-T driven.
- Establishes policies and procedures for—
 - Ensuring food safety and quality assurance.
 - Preventing and controlling animal diseases of military significance.
 - Establishing approved food sources in the operations area.

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- standards.
 - Ensuring that the levels of care and treatment of military animals meet professional standards.
 - Establishing procedures for veterinary care and treatment for other than government-owned animals.
 - Ensuring compliance with US export/import laws and the laws and regulations of HNs or other foreign countries.
 - Ensuring that training priorities for veterinary personnel are accomplished.
 - Formulating and establishing food recall procedures for all hazardous subsistence items according to AR 40-660 and Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) Regulation 4155.41.
 - Establishing coordination and reporting procedures for food safety issues.
 - Establishing priorities for the inspection of subsistence during redeployment operations and for the treatment and care of government-owned animals.
- Establishes and maintains liaison with veterinarians of higher and subordinate headquarters and those of US, allies, coalition partners, and HN veterinary services.
- Prepares or consolidates, evaluates, and forwards statistical and historical data and other required command veterinary reports (see Appendix C).
- Advises the commander on the prevention and control of existing or anticipated foreign animal diseases.
- Provides guidance (advice) on special decontaminating procedures to prevent transmission of animal diseases for equipment being retrograded to the continental United States (CONUS).
- Advises the command and staff on all veterinary matters.
- Conducts staff visits and inspections of veterinary facilities, activities, and units.
- Investigates claims concerning injury or death of indigenous animals resulting from military operations.

2-3. Theater Army Veterinarian

a. In a multicorps operation, the theater Army (TA) veterinarian is the senior veterinary staff officer in the theater of operations (TO). This officer provides technical guidance for the establishment of veterinary policies in the TO.

b. The TA veterinarian—

- Plans and advises the commander concerning policy for DOD veterinary activities throughout the TO.
- Establishes policy and provides technical guidance to all veterinary activities assigned or attached to the TA.
- Recommends policy concerning veterinary operations in a multicorps operation to the TA surgeon.
- Coordinates veterinary medical and surgical support, as directed.
- Approves, disapproves, and maintains records pertaining to the sanitary status of establishments that have requested to be or are listed as sources of local food procurement.
- Establishes policies/procedures for emergency medical evacuation (ground/air) of MWDs.
- Coordinates with theater procurement agencies concerning the notification, status, and possible alternate sources of supply of civilian food establishments.
- Publishes the Directory of Sanitarily Approved Food Establishments for Armed Forces Procurement.
- Reports to the TA surgeon and TA commander for all of the above listed activities.
- Establishes liaison with theater contracting personnel, theater Materiel Management Center (MMC) commander, theater chemical officer, and theater food service officer.

2-4. Medical Brigade Veterinarian

a. The medical brigade veterinarian may serve as the corps veterinarian. He normally provides veterinary technical guidance to all veterinary units in the medical brigade AO. *This position should be staffed for early deployment into the AO for veterinary asset coordination and allocation.*

b. The medical brigade veterinarian is the senior veterinary adviser to the medical brigade commander.

c. The medical brigade veterinarian keeps the medical brigade and, as necessary, the corps support command (COSCOM) commander informed of all veterinary activities. He assumes all the responsibilities of the TA veterinarian and the MEDCOM veterinarian if those positions are not staffed. Other responsibilities of the medical brigade veterinarian include conducting inspections and receiving reports that keep him informed on—

- The status of food safety and quality assurance.
- Zoonotic diseases transmitted from animals to humans.
- Status of veterinary care of government-owned animals within the AO.
- Veterinary units providing CHS.

d. The medical brigade veterinarian provides staff estimates pertaining to the deployment and employment of veterinary detachments assigned to the brigade. These detachments provide veterinary support to all DOD elements operating in the corps.

e. The medical brigade veterinarian recommends policy for all veterinary operations within the guidelines of its higher headquarters.

Section II. VETERINARY SERVICE SUPPORT SYSTEM

2-5. Veterinary Support

Veterinary support is a CHS function which is required for support of war and SASO. Veterinary units in an AO provide veterinary services on an area support basis.

a. Unit Veterinary Support.

(1) *Military working dog units.* Department of Defense units may have veterinary service personnel attached to provide care for the unit's MWDs. These soldiers are responsible for providing emergency veterinary care and preventive veterinary measures to their assigned MWDs. They also assist in the evacuation of MWD casualties to the nearest veterinary service unit. Veterinary service personnel may be deployed with organic USAF MWD units into an operations area.

(2) *Area medical laboratory.* Veterinary service personnel may be assigned individually or as a complete laboratory section to an AML. These soldiers are the only veterinary laboratory assets in an AO. They provide definitive analysis of food and animal specimens submitted by field veterinary units organic to the AO. They—

- Analyze food samples for safety and quality assurance.
- Detect and diagnose diseases transmissible from animals to humans.
- Provide definitive chemical, histopathological, and microbiological analyses for operational rations and food procurement operations.

- Provide a laboratory diagnostic support facility for MWDs.
- Detect NBC and/or directed-energy exposure in animals.

(3) *Special Operations Forces groups (Airborne)*. Veterinary service personnel are assigned and/or attached to Special Operations Forces. These forces work with indigenous military assets and allied or foreign governmental agencies. They assist in planning and executing population and resource control, civic action, and other security, development, and stability programs. During military and paramilitary operations, Special Operations Forces assist in planning and executing civic action, humanitarian assistance, and other programs designed to expand the governments legitimacy within contested areas. They also provide estimates and data on the resources essential to build an effective infrastructure for civil health and agricultural administration and operations.

(4) *Civil affairs units*. Veterinary personnel are assigned or attached at various command levels in civil affairs units. They—

- Assess available infrastructure to support combat forces.
- Support and coordinate humanitarian and disaster relief in coordination with other DOD elements, other US Government agencies, foreign and HN authorities, and international relief organizations.
- Assist in the planning and coordination of noncombatant evacuation operations (NEO) in the areas of food supply and privately owned animal (pet) evacuation or disposition.
- Assist in coordinating the use of local HN resources such as maintenance of medical facilities, to include animal facilities. They provide and conduct public health, PVNTMED, and civil defense operations in conjunction with the local agencies.

b. Area Veterinary Support. Area veterinary support is the primary method of providing veterinary service in the AO. The extent of support is contingent upon resources, time, and the types and numbers of units to be supported. Additionally, veterinary personnel can be placed in direct support of approved establishments designated for local procurement. Area veterinary support units also conduct vigorous preventive veterinary programs to identify and control those diseases that can be transmitted from animals to humans. Area veterinary medical support to government-owned and indigenous animals can vary from expedient, limited animal medical services and treatment to full medical and surgical care and hospitalization.

2-6. Command and Control

a. Command and control of veterinary units is normally provided by the senior Army Medical Department (AMEDD) commander in the corps AO. The senior veterinary unit commander in EAC provides C2 for veterinary units assigned to EAC.

b. The senior veterinary commander in the corps will exercise C2 over EAC veterinary units in the absence of a veterinary service headquarters. The medical brigade staff veterinarian provides technical guidance through policy statements and mission priorities. The senior theater staff veterinarian in a multicorps operation can be dual-hatted as the MEDCOM veterinarian.

c. The corps senior veterinary service detachment commander provides C2 for all veterinary assets in the corps.

Section III. VETERINARY SERVICE SUPPORT FOR SUBSISTENCE

2-7. Subsistence Support to the Theater of Operations

Veterinary support will also be required for those USAF, USMC, and USN general and direct support, supply, and service units. Veterinary support requirements are based on the mission and the size of the force supported. Medical detachment, veterinary service, and medical detachment, veterinary service (small), are found in support of those TAACOM GSUs that receive, store, and distribute subsistence. These rear GSUs normally provide support from fixed facilities located near ports of debarkation. Additional food safety and quality assurance support is provided to subsistence platoons, support companies, supply companies, and support battalions. The requisitioning and distribution of subsistence is explained in FM 10-23, *Basic Doctrine for Army Field Feeding and Class I Operations Management*. Figure 2-1 depicts the flow of Class I requisition and Figure 2-2 shows the flow of rations in the TO. Veterinary units are found in support of those corps and divisional combat service support (CSS) units that receive, store, and distribute subsistence that is in support of those COSCOM GSUs and division support command (DISCOM) direct support units (DSUs) within the AO.

2-8. Army Subsistence Requisition and Supply System in the Theater

Requisitions for all classes of supply, including Class I, are initiated in the battalion field trains. From that point, the requisitions are forwarded to the DSU, then through the Division Materiel Management Center (DMMC), Corps Materiel Management Center (CMMC), Theater Army Materiel Management Center (TAMMC), to the Defense Personnel Support Center (DPSC), Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The TAACOM receives corps requirements and routes materiel to the TAACOM MMC. The subsistence is shipped by DPSC from depots or vendors for delivery to the TA GSU where it is distributed to the COSCOM subsistence supply point. Subsistence shipments may also be shipped directly from the CONUS to the COSCOM. Next, subsistence moves to the division main support battalion (MSB), which distributes subsistence to the supported units in the division support area (DSA). The MSB also distributes to the forward support battalion's (FSB's) forward ration breakdown point (FRBP) which distributes the subsistence to the field kitchens.

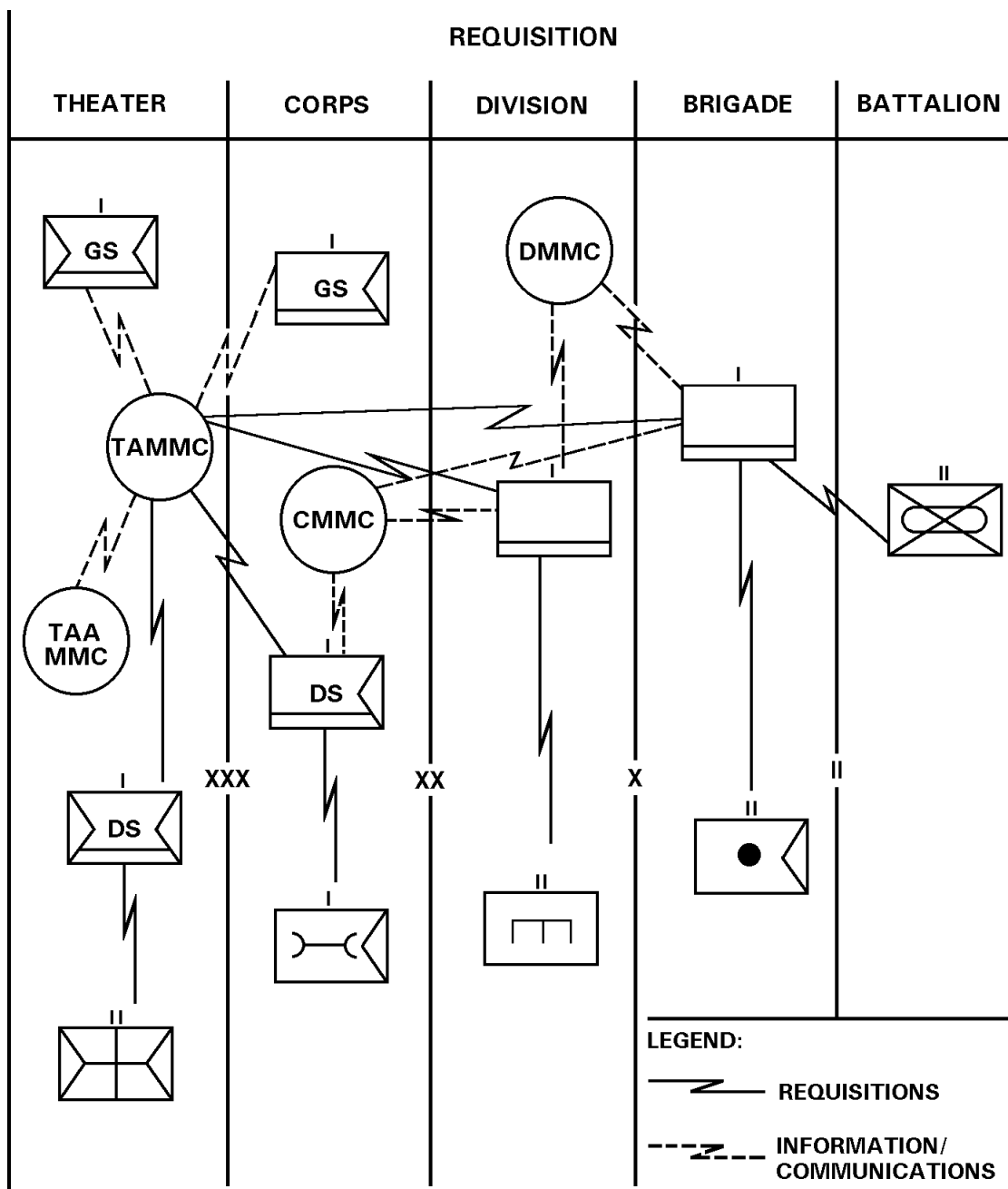
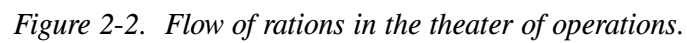


Figure 2-1. Flow of Class I requisition in a theater of operations.



Section IV. VETERINARY SERVICE SUPPORT FOR ANIMAL CARE

2-9. Animal Care Support to the Theater

The medical detachment, veterinary service, and the medical detachment, veterinary service (small), have a primary mission of food safety/quality assurance but also provide Levels I and II veterinary care. Due to the possible wide dispersion of MWDs within the corps, veterinary units found on MSRs allow for the ease of patient flow and evacuation of the MWDs. Medical detachments, veterinary service, units may be collocated with a medical task force to enhance animal care support through available radiographic and dental surgery support. These units also provide veterinary PVNTMED functions and support SASO. Units may also provide limited care for indigenous animals in the AO. Animal medicine and surgical support will be required for those US Army, USAF, USMC, and USN government-owned animals which will be supported on an area basis. The animal care specialist may be attached to bases with high concentration of MWDs to provide on-site veterinary health care support.

2-10. Animal Care Support to Echelons Above Corps

Medical detachments, veterinary medicine, provide Level III care. These detachments are normally found in support of large concentrations of MWDs along evacuation routes and near major USAF bases when established. Animal medicine and surgical support is required for those USAF bases with MWDs. Additional animal medicine support for USMC and USN government-owned animals will be based on population strengths. Due to the medical detachment's veterinary medicine capabilities, equipment, and transportation requirements, these detachments are found only in the EAC. Levels I and II equivalent care is provided by the medical detachment, veterinary service, and the medical detachment, veterinary service (small). Medical detachments, veterinary service, provide the emergency treatment and stabilization procedures, then prepare and coordinate evacuation of the MWDs to the medical detachment, veterinary medicine, or to CONUS-based facilities. Each of these units also provides veterinary PVNTMED functions and support SASO. They may also provide limited and emergency care for indigenous animals in the AO when tasked through command channels.